

Deciduous Tree Identification

Ten Common Deciduous Native Illinois Trees

1. Maple (*Acer*) – opposite, simple lobed leaves; imbricate buds
2. Ash (*Fraxinus*) – opposite, compound leaves; imbricate buds
3. Elm (*Ulmus*) – alternate, simple toothed leaves; round buds
4. Oak (*Quercus*) – alternate, simple lobed leaves; imbricate buds
5. Sycamore (*Platanus*) – alternate, simple large leaves; conical buds
6. Hackberry (*Celtis*) – alternate, simple leaves with offset base; imbricate buds
7. Cottonwood (*Populus*) – alternate, simple triangular leaves; imbricate buds
8. Cherry (*Prunus*) – alternate, simple toothed leaves; imbricate buds
9. Hickory (*Carya*) – alternate, compound leaves; ovoid buds
10. Walnut (*Juglans*) – alternate, compound leaves (15-23 leaflets); leaf-like, naked buds

A Closer Look at Oaks (*Quercus*)

1. White oak (*Q. alba*) – 4-8” leaves with 5-9 rounded lobes; thin reddish-brown stems; 1/8” reddish-brown buds clustered at branch end; broadly round habit; acorns 3/4” with cap covering quarter
2. Bur oak (*Q. macrocarpa*) – 4-10” fiddle-shaped leaves with rounded lobes; moderate grayish-green stems; 1/8” gray hairy buds clustered at branch end; broadly round habit; acorns 2” with cap covering three-quarters
3. Pin oak (*Q. palustris*) – 3-6” leaves with deep, pointed lobes ; 1/4” sharp pointed reddish-brown buds; thin grayish-green stems; drooping habit; acorns 1/2 ” with shallow cap
4. Black oak (*Q. velutina*) – 4-10” leaves with shallow, pointed lobes; 1/4” long, hairy, tan buds; stout yellow-brown stems; irregularly round habit; acorns 3/4” with cap covering half
5. Red oak (*Q. rubra*) – 4-8” leaves with shallow, pointed lobes; 1/4” sharp pointed reddish-brown buds; moderate reddish-brown stems; broadly rounded habit; acorns 1” with cap covering quarter

Good Identification Websites:

- UI Plants - <http://woodyplants.nres.uiuc.edu/>
- Illinois Big Tree Register - http://web.extension.uiuc.edu/forestry/il_big_tree.html
- Selecting Tree for your Home - <http://www.urbanext.uiuc.edu/treeselector/>
- Illinois Tree Selection - <http://www.urbanext.uiuc.edu/treeselect/>
- Illinois State Museum - <http://www.museum.state.il.us/muslink/forest/htmls/trees.html>
- IDNR Trees of Illinois - <http://dnr.state.il.us/education/CLASSRM/TreeSeedsLeaves/index.htm>
- What Tree Is It – An electronic key - <http://www.oplin.org/tree/index.html>
- Virginia Tech Tree Fact Sheets - http://www.dendro.cnre.vt.edu/dendrology/data_results_with_common.cfm

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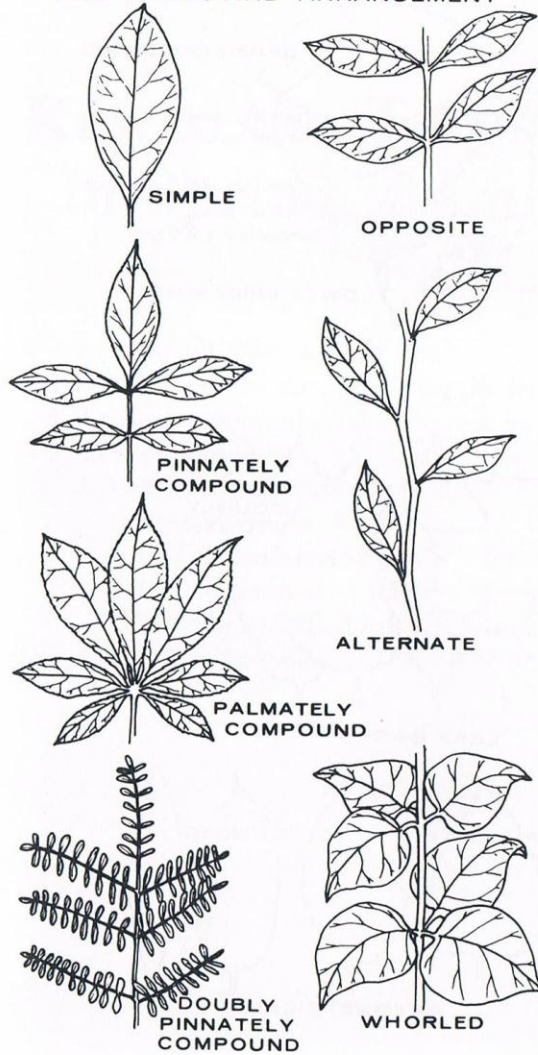


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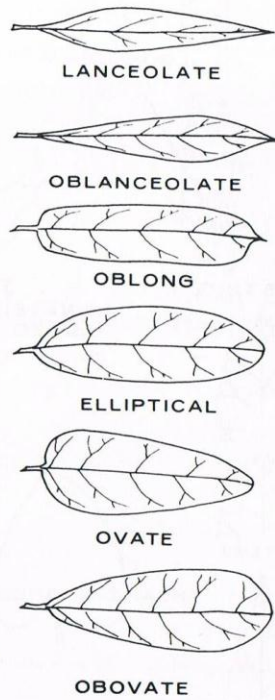
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